AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A communication device which releases, with a movement of a single mobile node to be managed, an older tunnel already established so as to prevent a number of all tunnels established between the communication device itself and an accommodating communication device accommodating the mobile node from exceeding a predetermined threshold value.

2. (original) The communication device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the threshold value comprises a unique value to each mobile node

3. (currently amended) A communication device which establishes, with a movement of a mobile node, a tunnel for transferring a communication packet with the mobile node to an accommodating communication device accommodating the mobile node at a moved destination, and which manages the mobile node, comprising:

> means for controlling a number of ~~the tunnel~~ tunnels to be within a predetermined number.

4. (original) A communication device which, when a new tunnel is required to be established with a movement of a single mobile node to be managed, a number of all tunnels presently established for all mobile nodes by the communication device itself exceeds a predetermined threshold value, and no tunnel corresponding to the single mobile node is established, rejects the establishment of the new tunnel, and releases an older tunnel

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corresponding to the single mobile node to establish the new tunnel when at least one tunnel corresponding to the single mobile node is established.

5 (original) The communication device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the mobile nodes are classified into a plurality of classes based on a plurality of threshold values, and the establishment of the new tunnel is rejected or executed based on the threshold value corresponding to the class to which the mobile node belongs.

6. (currently amended) A communication device which determines a lifetime, with a movement of a mobile node to be managed, of a tunnel established between the communication device itself and an accommodating communication device accommodating the mobile node, based on a number of all tunnels presently used by the communication device itself so that when a number of all tunnels presently used is large the lifetime is shortened.

7. (original) The communication device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the lifetime is notified to the mobile node.